



Prevention

Power

How To Reduce Disaster Damage

Take Action to Avoid Damage from Hurricanes

Hurricanes bring flooding rains and high winds. Once a hurricane hits, it's too late to protect your home and belongings. *Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities* offers preventative steps communities and businesses can take to reduce disruption and loss. There are things you can do to change the way your community deals with hurricanes.

Do you know your hurricane risk? Identifying potential hurricane hazards ahead of time can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of property from flood and wind damage. The first step is to determine your risk for hurricanes. Start by asking your local emergency management office, contacting your building department or going to our web site at www.fema.gov/impact and clicking on the "Do You Know Your Risk" icon to learn about potential risk areas for hurricanes in your community.

Since its inception in 1997, *Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities* has been embraced by nearly 200 communities and more than 1,100 business partners. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and communities in your area have implemented this nationwide initiative whose goal is to change the way America deals with disasters. Instead of waiting for disasters to strike, *Project Impact* encourages people, communities, and businesses to take preventative measures to reduce the potentially devastating effects of a disaster. **Prevention works.** For every dollar spent on prevention, two are saved in federal disaster recovery costs. For more information about *Project Impact*, call 202-646-4117. You can also visit our web site at www.fema.gov/impact.

Take Preventative Measures:

- Install hurricane straps and storm shutters on windows.
- Reinforce your roof with hurricane straps and bracing.
- Reinforce garage doors.
- Most double entry doors have an active and an inactive or fixed door. Check to see how the fixed door is secured at the top and bottom and add bolts or pins where needed.
- Trim back dead or weak branches from trees and keep debris clear from the house.

Know the difference between a hurricane watch and a hurricane warning.

A *hurricane watch* means there is the threat of a hurricane. Listen to news reports, bring in outdoor furniture, remove outside antennas, board-up windows and review an evacuation plan.

A *hurricane warning* means a hurricane is expected within 24 hours. Turn off utilities, move furniture to upper levels of the house if you are in a storm surge area and store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container.